

HANDBOOK OF PHONOLOGICAL DATA
FROM A SAMPLE OF THE WORLD'S LANGUAGES

A Report of the Stanford Phonology Archive

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	150 Mahas-Fiyadikka	150 Mahas-Fiyadikka	150 Mahas-Fiyadikka
			51 i ¹²
150	01 b	17 s-hacek	52 i-long ¹²
150	02 b-long [p-long] ³⁰ (free)	18 s-hacek-long	53 e-mid ¹²
		20 m	54 e-mid-long ¹²
150	03 t ⁰³	21 m-long	55 a
150	04 t-long ³⁰	22 n	56 a-long
150	05 d	[eng] ^{63 66} (allo, free)	57 u ¹²
150	06 d-long ³⁰	[eng-long] ⁶⁶ (free)	58 u-long ¹²
150	07 k ⁰³	23 n-long	59 o-mid ¹²
150	08 k-long ³⁰ [k-preglottalized] ⁶¹	24 n-palatal ⁰⁸	60 o-mid-long ¹²
150	09 g ⁶⁵ [k-lax-preglottalized] ⁶¹	25 n-palatal-long	61 yod ⁰⁸
150	10 t/s-hacek ^{04 05} (limited)	26 l ⁰⁹	62 yod-long
150	11 t/s-hacek-long ^{04 05 30}	27 l-long	63 w
150	12 d/z-hacek ^{04 05}	28 r-trill ⁰⁹ [r-flap] ¹⁰ (free)	64 w-long
150	13 f ⁰⁶	29 r-trill-long	
150	14 f-long ⁰⁶	30 h ¹¹	
150	15 s ⁰⁷ [z] ⁶²		81 high
150	16 s-long		82 low
150	\$a Mahas-Fiyadikka \$A Nobiin \$b Fiyadikka \$d Nubian \$e Sudan \$f 1 million (all Nubian languages) \$g Merritt Ruhlen \$g Jim Lorentz (review) \$g John Crothers (editor)		
150	\$a Bell, Herman \$b 1971 \$c The Phonology of Nobiin Nubian \$d African Language Review 9.115-139 \$q informants: 2		
150	\$a ACCENT \$A The examples suggest a tonal accent system. Monosyllables have either high or low tone. Polysyllables may have all syllables low, or one syllable high, the location of the high tone being phonologically unpredictable. [JHC]		
150	\$a LONG CONSONANTS \$A Basically long consonants only occur morpheme medially, i.e. intervocalically. Surface long consonants occur at morpheme boundaries when identical consonants come together. Under these conditions lax stops and affricates generally become tense and voiceless. (See comment 30.) When basically long consonants come into utterance final position upon vowel deletion in certain imperatives they are realized as phonetically short. (p.118, 121)		
150	\$a SYLLABLE \$A (C)V(:)(C)(C) \$A Syllable final clusters seem to be especially rare. (See examples p.121, p.123.)		
150	\$a TENSE AND LAX STOPS AND AFFRICATES \$A "Tense/lax is a distinctive feature, rather than voiced/voiceless." (p.117) However, the examples to illustrate this suggest that in most environments the "lax" series are in fact voiced. The tense/lax contrast is only fully operative for stops in word initial position. In final position tense stops are rare. In medial position, tense stops and affricates are only rarely short, and the lax counterparts of /t/ and /k/ do not occur long. However, there are a number of exceptions with /d-long/ intervocalically.		
150	\$a TONE \$A domain of tone: syllable		
150 03	\$A Short tense (voiceless) stops /t/ and /k/ occur only rarely in morpheme medial position and		

- thus they contrast only minimally with their long counterparts. (Phonemically long consonants only occur medially.) They also occur rarely in morpheme final position.
- 150 04 \$A /t/s-hacek/ occurs only rarely in medial position. It does not occur at all in morpheme initial or final position. Thus, its contrast with /d/z-hacek/ and /t/s-hacek-long/ is minimal and "/t/s-hacek/ may be said to be barely phonemic." (p.116) Bell adds that "the split between /t/s-hacek/ and /d/z-hacek/ seems to be accentuated by the impact of Arabic." (p.116-117) /t/s-hacek-long/ is common but long /d/z-hacek/ never occurs.
- 150 05 \$A /t/s-hacek-long/ and /d/z-hacek/ "are articulated far to the front." We interpret this to mean (approximately) a palatoalveolar articulation. Bell adds that these affricates "sometimes become palatalized plosives" but gives no further details.
- 150 06 \$A /f/ does not occur morpheme finally. It is rare in medial position and, consequently, the phonemic contrast between it and /f-long/ is minimal.
- 150 07 \$A "Although the [s/z] distinction is phonologically conditioned and subphonemic in the basic phonology of Nobiin, a distinctive opposition between /s/ and /z/ has been introduced among the loan words from Arabic. The sub-phonemic opposition between [s] and [z] may then, by some, be reinterpreted as phonemic." (p.118)
- 150 08 \$A Palatal resonants are not common morpheme initially. /n-palatal/ is "infrequent;" /yod/ is "rare."
- 150 09 \$A /r-trill/ does not occur in morpheme initial position and /l/ occurs initially generally only in postpositions.
- 150 10 \$A "The 'r' is normally trilled, but sometimes flapped." (p.118)
- 150 11 \$A /h/ is infrequent in morpheme initial position and rare elsewhere. Long /h/ does not occur.
- 150 12 \$A High and mid vowels are realized as lax before /r-trill/, and, when short, before consonant clusters. (Laxness is not defined; no phonetic symbols for lax phones are given.) (p.118)
- 150 30 \$A When a voiced, lax stop or affricate precedes an identical segment at a morpheme boundary a long, tense, voiceless surface phone is produced. For example, [g] + [g] becomes [k-long]. This rule applies without exception to /g/ and /d/z-hacek/. One exception occurs for /d/, and the rule is optional in the case of /b/. (See note 60.) This rule is reflected morpheme internally by the fact that long /g/ and long /d/z-hacek/ do not occur. However, /d-long/ is "frequent" (p.120) and /b-long/ is optionally realized as [p-long].
- 150 61 \$A /k-long/ and /g/ have preglottalized allophones [k-preglottalized] and [k-lax-preglottalized] in utterance final position. Bell only gives examples of preglottalized stops for these two velar phonemes. (p.118) He states a general rule "that plosives are not voiced in utterance final position." This presumably means that both /b/ and /d/ have voiceless allophones in this environment too. However it is unclear whether they would also be preglottalized as in the case for the velar stops.
- 150 62 \$A /s/ is realized as [lax] [z] before /b/.
- 150 63 \$A /n/ is realized as [eng] before /g/.
- 150 66 \$A The cluster [eng.g] may be reduced to [eng-long] or [eng].